



**US Army Corps  
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Detroit District

# News Release

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## Soo Locks West Center Pier repair project awarded

**DETROIT** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District announces that a construction contract in the amount of \$1.4 million has been awarded to Ryba Marine Construction Company, located in Cheboygan, Mich., for repairs at the Soo Locks facility.

Repairs will take place along the West Center Pier located on the Detroit District's Soo Locks at the Soo Area Office facility. The construction area is west of the railroad bridge along the north wall of the pier, in the South Canal.

The repair, which should begin in May, will stabilize a critical portion of the west approach to the Poe and MacArthur Locks. This will prevent structural failure and assure that an important mooring area remains available to lake freighters.

Voids have been appearing in the ledge rock on the south side of the West Center Pier. These voids could cause failure of the large concrete monoliths that sit above them.

Repairs to this area had already begun in 2002. The first contract, awarded in July of 2002 repaired the first 300 feet of the West Center Pier. This contract will repair approximately 250 feet more of the pier.

The work to be conducted includes removing outcroppings of existing ledge rock wall and channel bottom, placement of grout bags within the voids in the ledge rock wall, placement of steel sheet pile next to the existing concrete monoliths, filling the void between the two walls with concrete, removal and replacement of the timber fenders attached to the wall, and re-strengthening of bollards along the pier.

It is anticipated that this project will have minimal effect to shipping traffic. Additionally, the construction will yield to commercial vessels during passage.

This contract work should be complete by the end of November.